Perceptions in the Gaza Strip after the ceasefire

9 -16 October 2025

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Context

- As a permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip materializes, conversations about the future of Gaza among Palestinians, and in world capitals, continue. We believe it is critical to raise the voices of the people vis-a-vis questions that may impact their lives for many years to come.
- The Institute for Social and Economic Progress commissioned and conducted a representative poll in the Gaza Strip from 9-16 October 2025.
- Some findings of this research are contingent on the events that are still unfolding and might change.

Executive summary (1/3)

- This report is comprised of three sections, together composing a comprehensive picture of the views and perceptions of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip:
  - Section (1): feelings and collective hope after the ceasefire deal
  - Section (2): perceptions of the ceasefire deal and expectations
  - Section (3): post-war rule expectations and preferences

Executive summary – main findings (2/3)

- Hope resurged after the ceasefire: reported feelings of hope nearly doubled to above 70%, and the share believing the end of occupation is “closer” also doubled. This emotional rebound sits alongside lingering wartime stressors, but the data show a clear lift in collective outlook immediately following the agreement.
- Awareness of the ceasefire plan is widespread (82.9%), and among those aware, most say they know its content (84.8%). Credit for the deal clusters around Egypt, Turkey, the USA, and Qatar, with individual leaders—Sisi, Trump, and Erdogan—receiving much of the attribution. While an absolute majority has heard there are guarantors (86.4%), confidence in their ability to ensure full, sustained implementation is modest, with only 31.5% highly confident. Four in five (80.0%) nonetheless agree that Hamas and other factions should accept any conditions needed to secure a ceasefire, reflecting a strong preference for stopping the fighting.

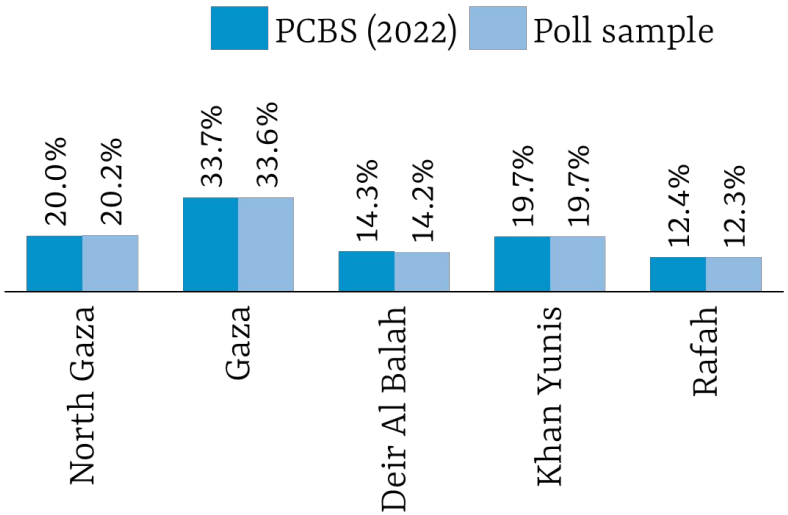
Executive summary – main findings (3/3)

- Institutional options are on the table: 71.1% have heard proposals for an international body to administer Gaza, and nearly half (48.7%) support such an arrangement. A majority (70.0%) expects the ceasefire to be permanent, yet roughly a quarter (24.4%) does not expect it to be accompanied by an Israeli withdrawal, revealing tempered expectations about what “permanent” entails. Politically, one in three (32.8%) would vote for independents if elections were held; only small minorities want Hamas to rule (2.9%) or expect it to (3.2%). Looking ahead five years, around two-thirds anticipate improvements across key fronts, signaling a pragmatic but forward-leaning optimism about recovery and governance.

Sample distribution - Geographical location (Gaza Strip)

Sample distribution

By governorate



Target population:

Gaza Strip)

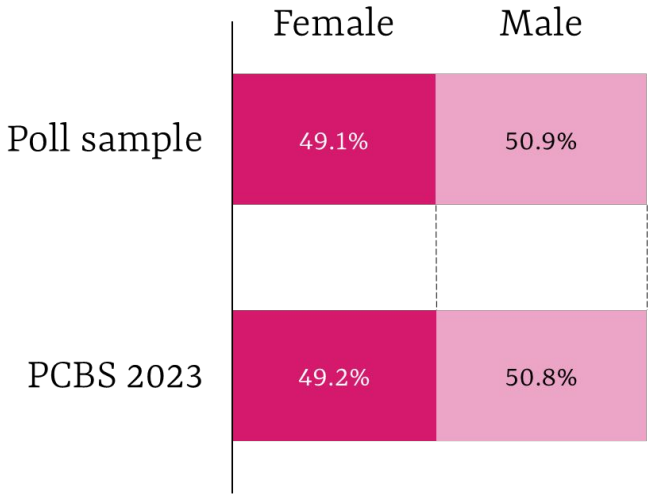
Aged 15 years or older

Sample size:

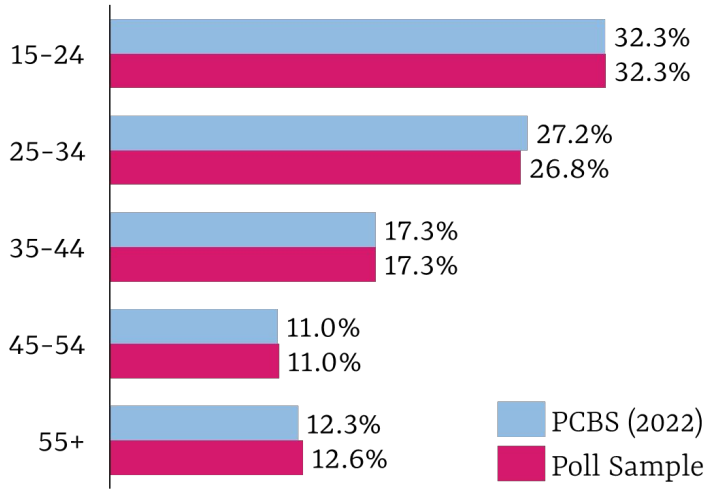
Gaza Strip - 380 respondents from 32 random locations using quota sampling

Sample distribution - Gender and age (Gaza Strip)

Sample distribution
By Gender



Sample distribution
By age



Why Quota Sampling in Gaza?

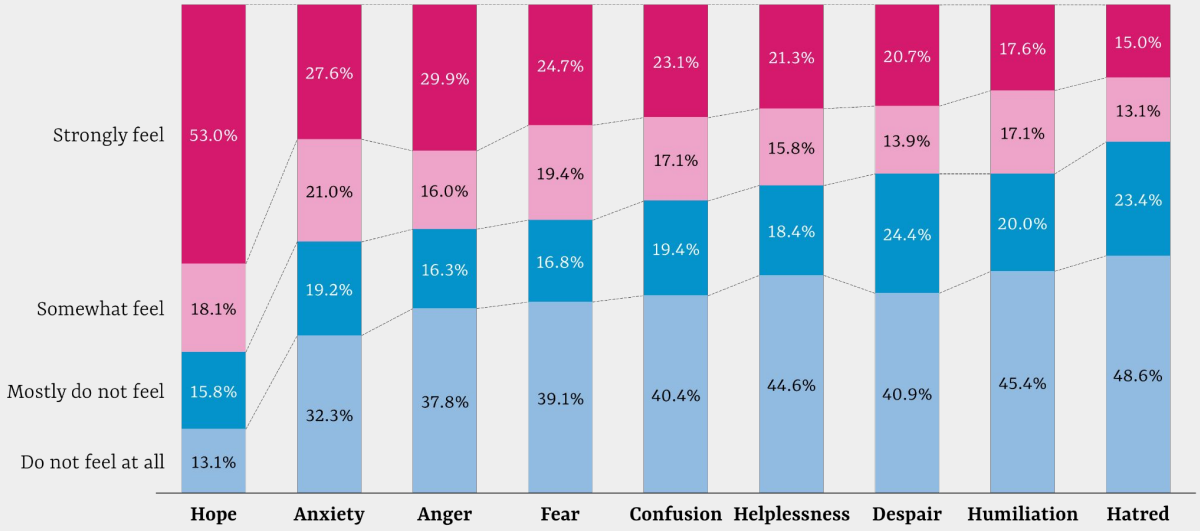
- Before the war, Gaza, like the West Bank, used to be divided into counting areas by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
- The current war, which displaced over 80% of Gaza's population, disrupted the "natural distribution" based on which counting areas were designed
- Counting areas have become irrelevant, because of the significant change in terms of population density and demographics
- In this context, quota sampling has the highest chance of producing a frame which represents the population in question based on a number of factors that researchers choose. In our case, we used governorate of residence before the war, gender and age
- Once quotas have been decided, enumerators were dispersed to collect responses from 39 areas until each of the quotas is completed.

Psychology of war

Feelings and collective hope

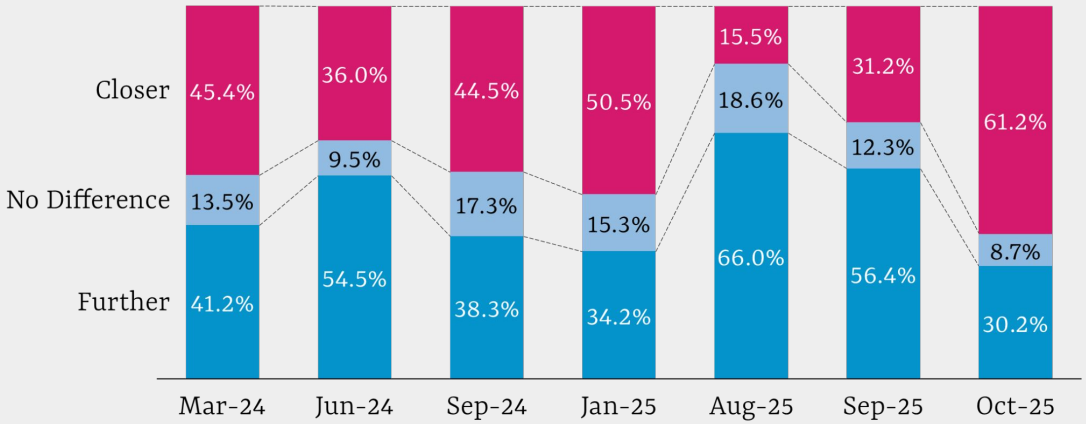
Feelings of hope reemerge in the Gaza Strip, nearly doubling after the announcement of the ceasefire to over 70% from 36.5%

In the current situation, to what extent do you feel the following emotions?



...and the percentage of those believing that the occupation's end is closer also doubled

Based on recent developments, do you think the end of occupation is closer or further away?

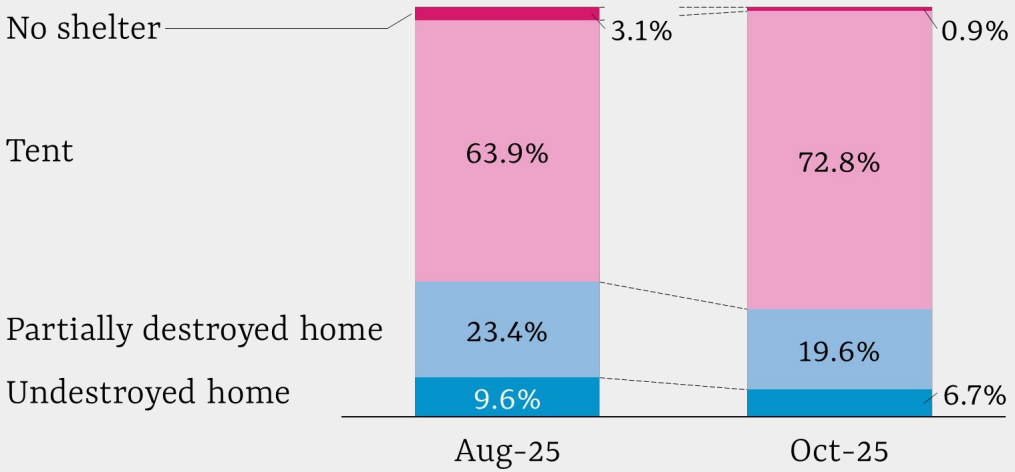


Living conditions

Housing & safety

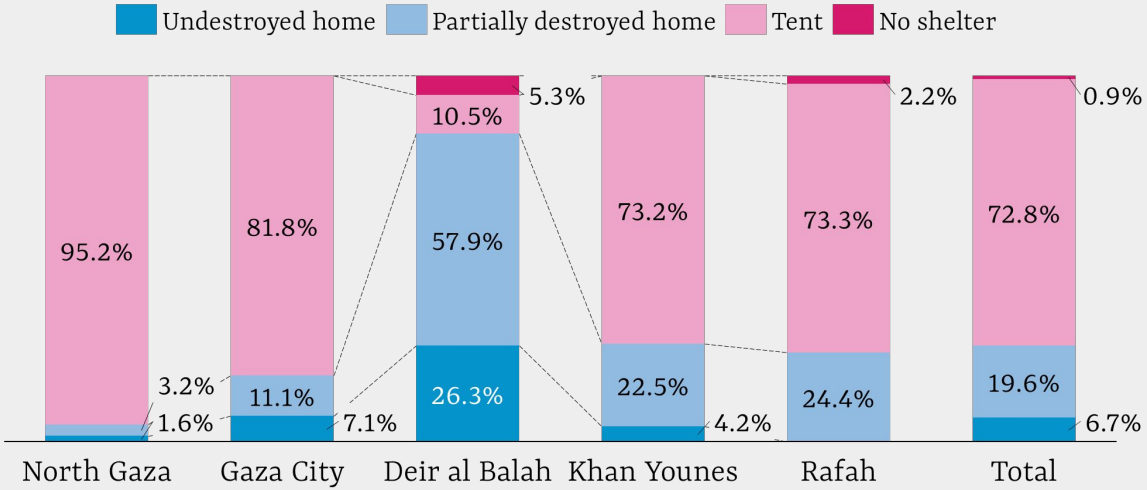
Majority of respondents (72.8%) live in tents, which is a 9% increase since August

Where do you currently live?



...with over half (57.9%) of those originally from Deir Al Balah living in partially destroyed homes

Where do you currently live?

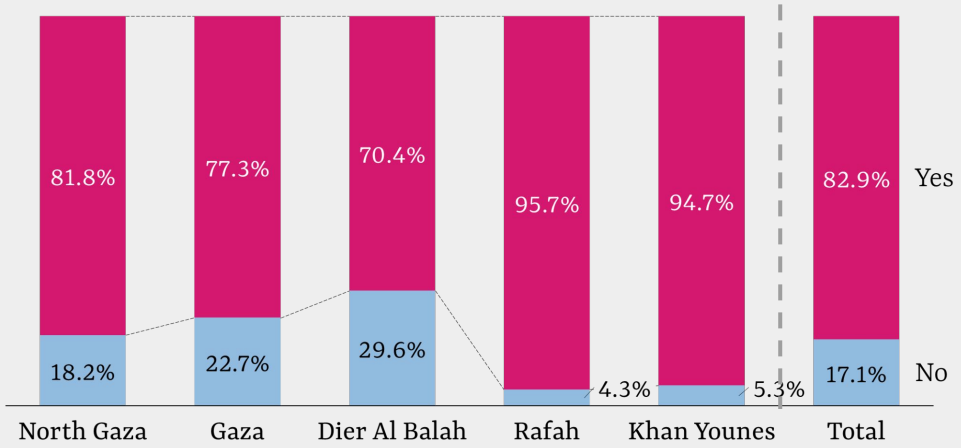


Views on the ceasefire

Expectations and attribution

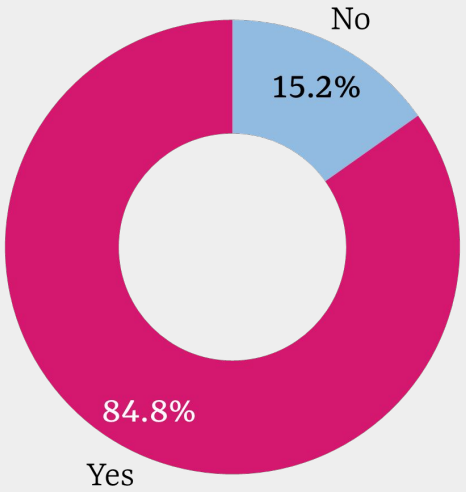
The overwhelming majority of respondents (82.9%) have heard of the ceasefire plan

Have you heard about the ceasefire plan?



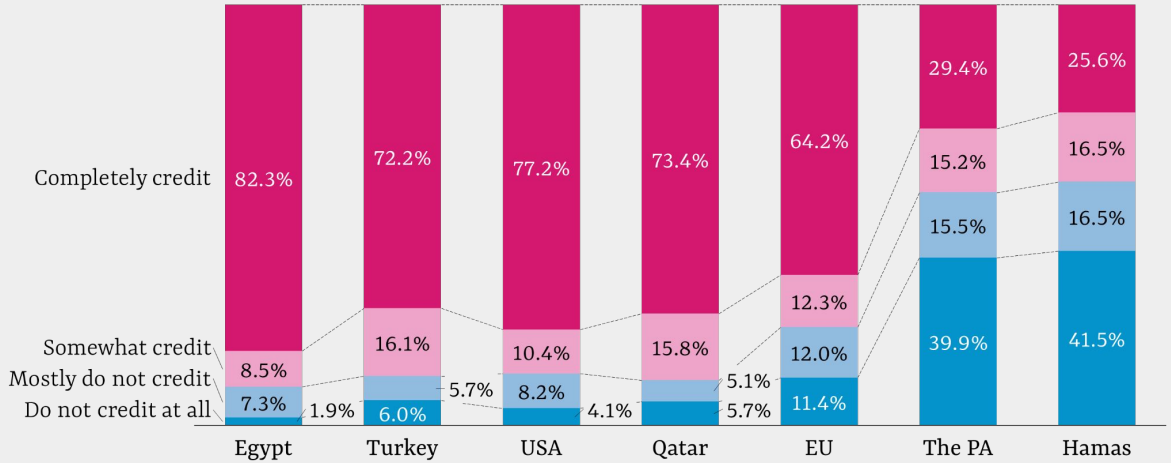
...moreover, the majority (84.8%) of those who have heard of the plan are familiar with its content

Are you familiar with the plan's content?



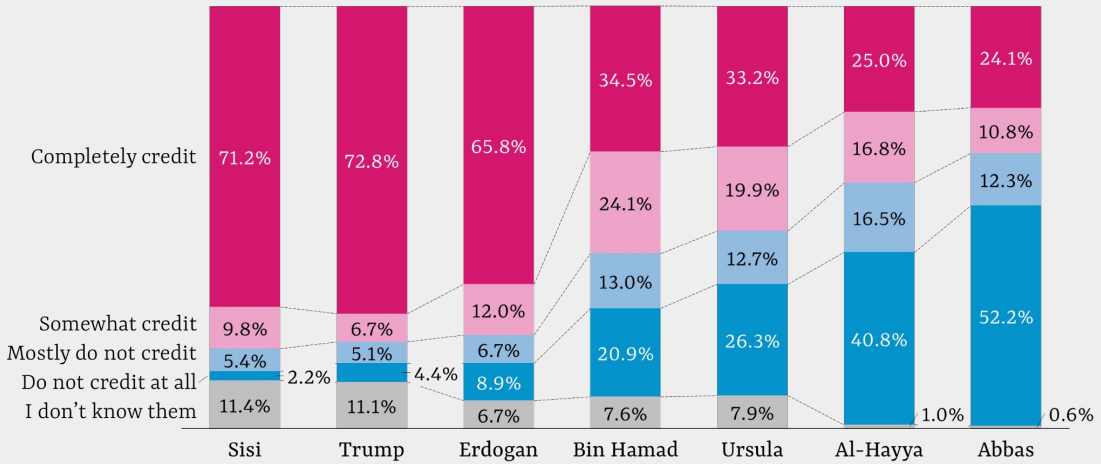
Egypt, Turkey, USA, and Qatar are the parties most credited for the success of the ceasefire deal

How much do you credit the success the following parties in the success of the ceasefire deal?



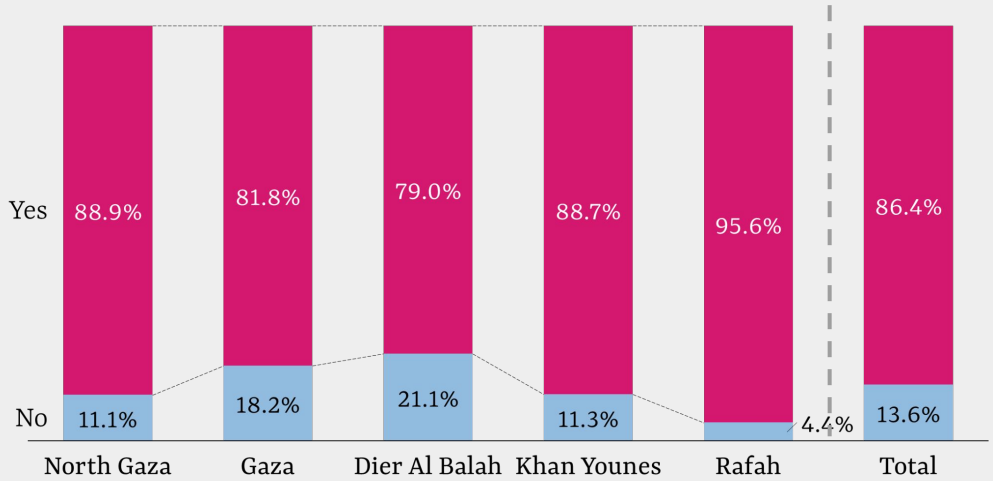
...with Sisi, Trump, and Erdogan taking most of the credit

How much do you credit the success the following actors in the success of the ceasefire deal?



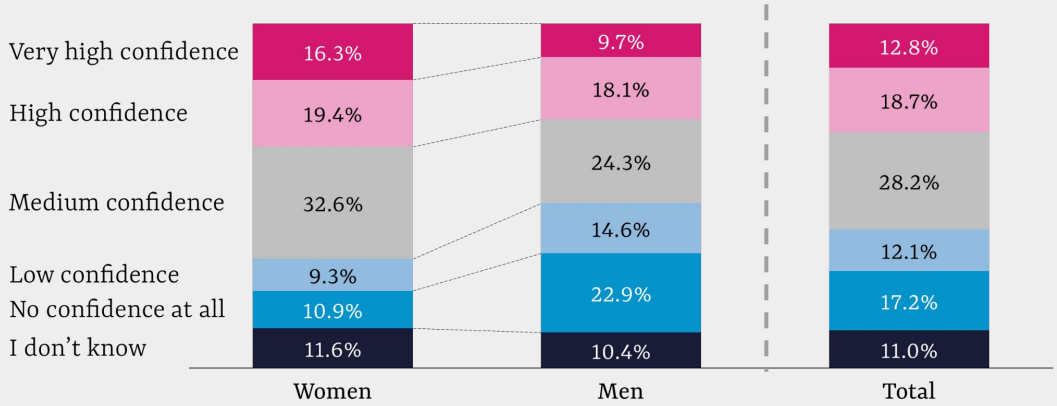
Absolute majority (86.4%) of those who have heard of the ceasefire plan have heard of the existence of guarantors

Have you heard about the existence of guarantors for the ceasefire agreement?



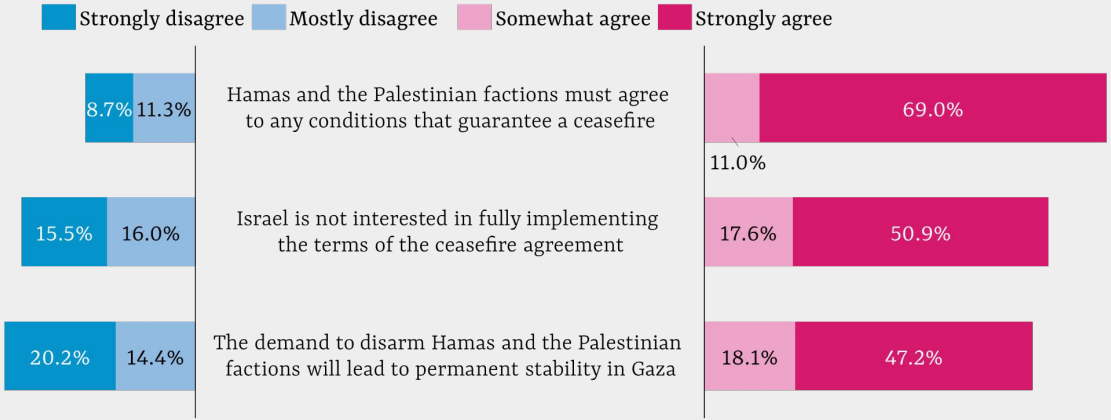
...however, confidence seems low in those guarantors, as only 31.5% are highly confident of their ability to ensure implementation

In general, how confident are you in the four guarantors to ensure the full and sustainable implementation of the Gaza ceasefire agreement?



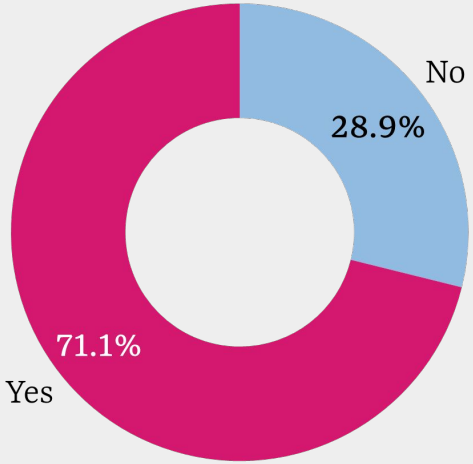
Four in five respondents (80.0%) agree that Hamas and other factions should agree to any conditions in order to have a ceasefire

To what extent do you agree or oppose the following statements?



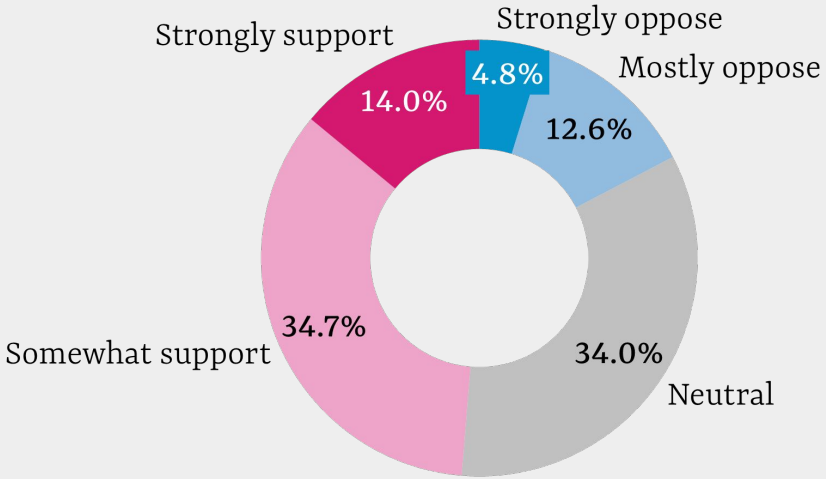
Most respondents (71.1%) have heard of the proposal to establish an international body to manage the Strip

Have you heard about the proposal to establish an international body to administer the Gaza Strip as part of the ceasefire plan?

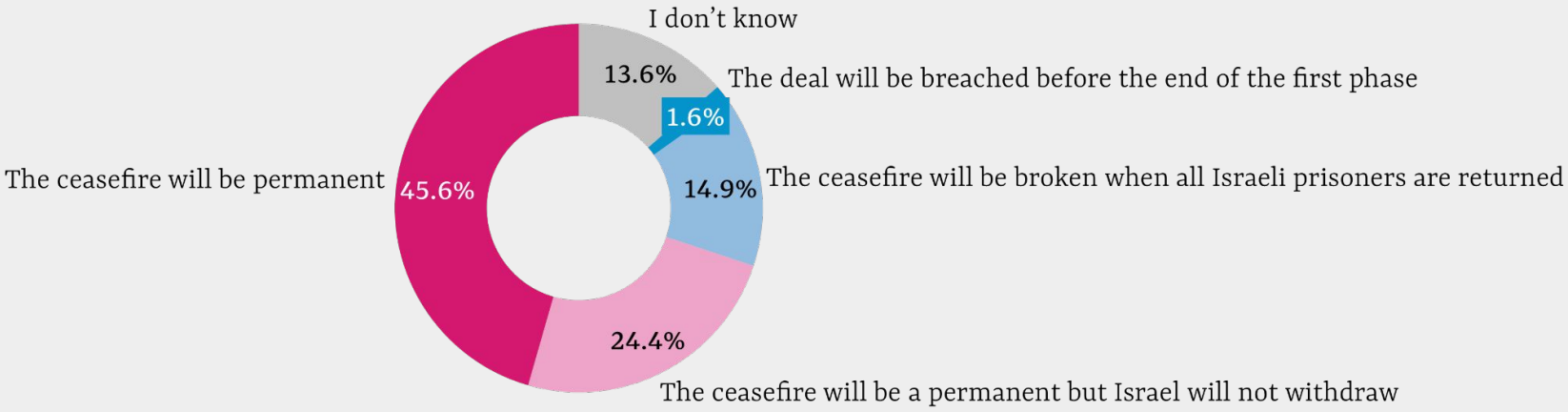


...with nearly half (48.7 %) supporting Gaza being ruled by an international body

To what extent do you support or oppose the rule of Gaza by an international body?



A large minority (45.6%) believe the ceasefire will be permanent, however, many are skeptical especially about Israeli withdrawal


I don't know
13.6%
The deal will be breached before the end of the first phase
1.6%
The ceasefire will be permanent
45.6%
14.9%
The ceasefire will be broken when all Israeli prisoners are returned
24.4%
The ceasefire will be a permanent but Israel will not withdraw

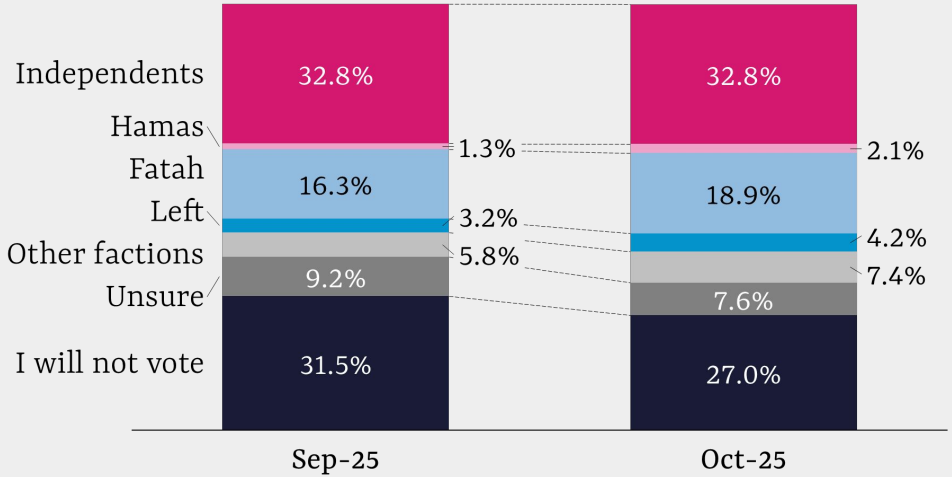
How long do you expect the ceasefire agreement to last?

Post-war rule

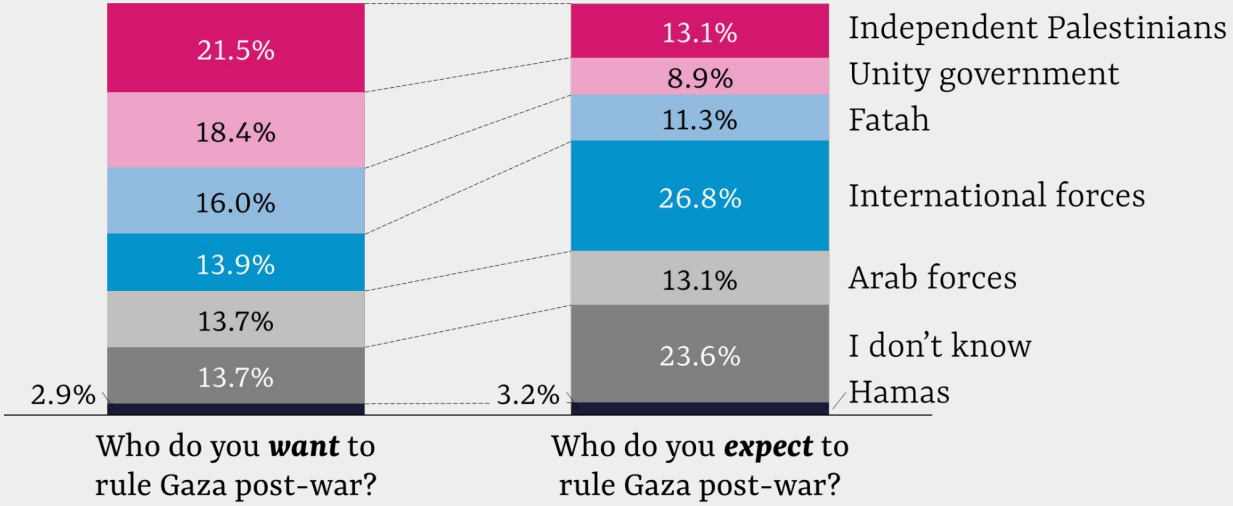
Hopes and expectations

One in three (32.8%) respondents would vote for independents in case of future elections

Who will you vote for in case of future elections?

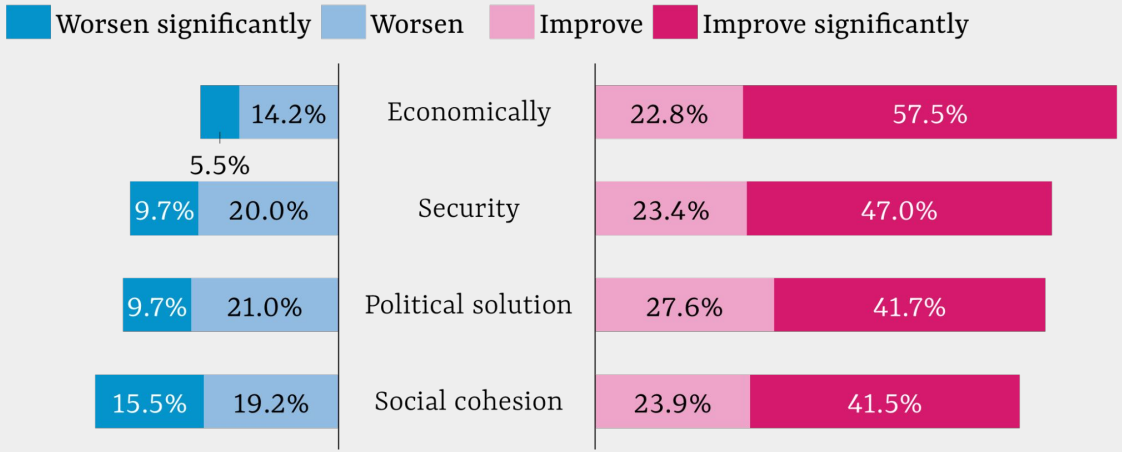


...with only 2.9% wanting Hamas to rule Gaza post-war, and only 3.2% expecting it to



Around two in three respondents believe the situation in Gaza will improve on all fronts in the following 5 years

To what degree do you think the situation of Palestinians will improve or worsen in the next five years on the following fronts?



Conclusions

- ➔ Gazans enter the ceasefire period with renewed hope, broad awareness of the deal, and a clear desire to consolidate peace—even if confidence in guarantors is limited and expectations about withdrawal are cautious.
- ➔ Governance preferences remain fluid, with notable openness to an international administrative role and significant appetite for independent political alternatives. The combination of rising hope, strong ceasefire support, and pragmatic expectations about near-term governance creates a narrow but meaningful window: if implementation is seen as credible and tied to tangible improvements in daily life, public optimism can harden into durable consent for post-war arrangements and a pathway to longer-term stability.

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